

cheesy, but the truth is that, as director of environmental affairs it allows me to do whatever I think best in order to uphold that principle. For instance, if I want to sell consulting services and help other ski areas become more environmentally responsible, I'm still conforming to our 'guiding principles'."

This year, the company produced its first published "sustainability report", a detailed catalog of the company's environmental programs and policies, statistics on its natural resource consumption and pollution, resource efficiency, hazardous waste management and compliance, community and environmental education programs, habitat, wildlife and open space protection.

SUSTAINABLE SLOPES?

"Ski companies don't have to be rape-and-pillage organizations," said Schendler. "We don't have to clearcut slopes. We can have a more harmonious relationship with the community and the environment."

To that end, Aspen has implemented such initiatives as s-curved, bio-diverse and unbulldozed slopes to minimize erosion and protect wildlife, wind-powered ski lifts, employee and community initiatives and a pollution prevention partnership with the EPA and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Recent developments in Aspen Skiing Company's program have included the deconstruction of the mountain's popular Sundeck Restaurant and the Snowmass Lodge and Club, two buildings which were scheduled to be razed and rebuilt. Materials from both structures were harvested and recycled, with unsalvageable materials composted. According to Schendler, 94 percent of the structures were diverted from the Pitkin County landfill. That comes to 8,000 cubic yards of space, or an addition of three months to the projected life of the landfill.

The Sundeck Restaurant was rebuilt to conform with guidelines established by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. LEED is the nation's first national certification process for environmentally friendly building. The 3,700-square-foot deck was built from recycled materials, ozone-depleting CFCs in refrigeration systems, insulation and carpet pads were eliminated, landscaping was designed with native vegetation to reduce water use, low toxicity paints and sealants were used, and the list goes on.

A DROP IN THE BUCKET

As Schendler pointed out, however, many of these adjustments are a mere drop in the bucket when factored into total resort operations.

"Thirty percent of the Sundeck Restaurant is wind-powered," he said. "But you have to ask, what percentage of our total energy purchase does that represent? The answer is half of one percent, Barely anything."

Does it have a major influence on pollution? Not really, said Schendler, who calculated the total impact as the equivalent of not driving your car for 97,000 miles, or planting 40 acres of trees. So, is this an example of "greenwashing"—a mere pretence on the part of a resort company?

"We couldn't power the whole operation with wind," explained Schendler, "It's too expensive. We'd go bankrupt. But what we can do is buy some wind power, make that statement, popularize it among our employees and guests, and encourage other ski areas to follow suit."

VAIL DEVELOPS ITS POLICIES

Vail Resorts' environmental program began to take shape in 1998, although Gitchell stressed that the arduous process of

adopting a company policy is very much still in the formative stages. "We've had some successes," he said. "But that isn't to say that we're suddenly a different company or a different culture."

Last season, Vail Resorts developed a computer-generated assessment tool allowing the four resorts to measure their environmental practices against an outline of pre-set standards. The tool was subsequently adopted by the National Ski Areas association who, after some modification, passed it on to resorts throughout the country.

The Skiing Company awarded Vail with the Silver Eagle award for environmental achievement in "visual impacts" for the Blue Sky Basin project, touted by Colorado Ski Country USA as the most environmentally sensitive ski area expansion undertaken in North America.

Among recent environmental initiatives are the prototype composting operation introduced last season at the Game Creek Club on mountain restaurant, third-party audits by an environmental consulting firm (initiated this summer), the replacement of 25 fleet vehicles with "townie" bicycles, and the purchase of 475 blocks of clean, wind-generated electricity per month.

"To emphasize Mr. Schendler's point, our wind energy purchases also come out to less than one percent of our total energy purchase," said Gitchell. "But the stage has to be set for continuing policies."

Gitchell said that Vail Resorts' goals for the coming year are to improve education and communication, improve regulatory systems, reduce green house gas emissions, and implement a sustainable building program. He said that likes the idea of Aspen Skiing Company's community environmental advisory committee, which integrates local environmental activists into the resort's management process.

"The bottom line is that we don't know for sure that we can achieve sustainability in this world," said Schendler. "By doing what we are doing, we are making the assumption that we can. And it's a vital leap of faith."

IN HONOR OF SENATOR JOHN AND MRS. ANNIE GLENN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and recognize the Honorable Senator John Glenn and his wife Mrs. Annie Glenn, on their achievement of the Greater Communicator Award.

Senator and Mrs. Glenn have an incredibly dedicated history of public service, and have remained committed to serving their community for years. Mrs. Annie Glenn has suffered and overcome a severe stuttering problem, and after completing an intensive therapy program she now speaks confidently and has given countless speeches.

Senator Glenn was the first American to orbit the earth in 1962 and returned to space in 1998. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1974 and retired in 1998. His distinguished career as a public servant earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and constituents alike.

Senator and Mrs. Glenn have dedicated their entire lives to the betterment of their local and international community. This Great Communicator Award is being presented to Sen-

ator John and Annie Glenn in recognition of their tireless efforts in public service and a lifetime of service. The Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center is presenting this prestigious award during their 80th anniversary celebration.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognition for two outstanding individuals, Senator John Glenn and his wife Annie, for their lifetime of outstanding achievement. Their love, dedication, and commitment to bettering their community has touched thousands of Americans.

HONORING DOCTOR WILLIAM GEORGE SHANKS UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a man who has dedicated himself to the care and well being of others. Dr. William Shanks has not only sought to improve the lives of others through the practice of medicine, but he has also been actively involved in various political and community-based organizations throughout his career. Upon his retirement, I would like to recognize the difference that Dr. Shanks has made in so many lives.

Born in Scotland in 1943, William came to the United States with his family and eventually took up residence in Philadelphia. This is where William studied from his early years through his medical schooling at Temple University. William's time was occupied not only with his studies, but also as a member of the local Teamster's Union. Following his medical education, his profession provided the opportunity to work at the Presbyterian Medical Center in Denver, Colorado. Dr. Shanks always harbored a sincere desire to serve his country and after his internship was completed in Colorado, he joined the United States Navy and was a diving and medical officer on a submarine. After serving his country, William returned for four more years at St. Joseph Hospital in Denver to complete his medical residency.

In 1976, Dr. Shanks relocated to Grand Junction, Colorado to the benefit of the community of Grand Junction. Dr. Shanks joined the staffs of St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Center and the Grand Junction VA Medical Center. Beyond the scope of his medical responsibilities locally as the Chief of Surgery and the Chief of Staff, Dr. Shanks chose to further serve his community by sitting on the board of St. Mary's Hospital, Colorado Trauma Institute, Colorado Medical Society Foundation and the Mesa County Independent Physicians' Association. Furthermore, William has had the distinct honor of serving as president of the Mesa County Medical Society, Denver Academy of Surgery and other organizations. At the intersection of medicine and politics, Dr. Shanks has recently been appointed to the Governor's Trauma Council.

Equally important, William and his wife Stella have raised four children—Maggie Anne, Bradley, Fiona and Lorna. While maintaining a busy schedule providing care to his patients and the State of Colorado, Dr. Shanks always